

4th Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI)

Mexico City, Mexico, 2-3 December 2013

SUMMARY

1. The 4th Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication / ICT Indicators (EGTI) took place in Mexico City, Mexico, on 2-3 December 2013, preceding the 11th World Telecommunication / ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS), which was held on 4-6 December 2013. The results of the EGTI meeting were presented by the EGTI Chair during WTIS 2013.
2. The meeting was attended by 68 participants representing regulators, ministries and national statistical offices from 34 countries, as well as América Móvil, Intel and the World Bank. ITU staff was also present during the meeting and acted as the secretariat of EGTI. The meeting was chaired by Mr Iñigo Herguera, National Markets and Competition Commission, Spain.
3. The indicators reviewed in the 4th EGTI meeting were those identified by the 10th WTIM (held in Bangkok in September 2012) as requiring further discussion as well as long standing issues (such as the ICT Development Index). In particular, the agenda covered investment and revenue indicators, the mapping of backbone transmission networks, data on mobile-broadband prices, the revision of the Core indicators on ICT infrastructure and access of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and TV broadcasting indicators.
4. The meeting discussed the inputs received in the EGTI online forum in 2013. The discussions focused on the suggested indicators, their definitions and whether to include them in the future (2014) ITU data collection. The meeting further discussed the continuation of the work of EGTI, identifying topics that required further discussion as well as new additions to the list of indicators.
5. EGTI agreed that the discussions on foreign direct investment in telecommunications/ICT and revenue and investment for the whole ICT sector should be closed in the EGTI discussion forum, and proposed to continue them in the framework of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. Regarding revenue and investment in telecommunications, EGTI endorsed the *Methodology for the collection of revenue and investment data on telecommunications* and invited countries to use the principles included in the note when reporting data to ITU. The issue of how to classify revenues resulting from mobile payments was raised and it was agreed that it would be further discussed. It was also concluded that a separate indicator to measure wholesale revenue could be added in the future.

6. EGTI welcomed the progress achieved in the collection of data for the ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps, and encouraged ministries, regulators and operators to submit data and participate in the validation, or correction, of the information included in the map.
7. EGTI decided to discontinue the ITU collection of prices for the 250MB monthly data allowance for handset-based subscriptions. Price data for the following mobile-broadband plans will be collected: (i) handset-based, prepaid, 500 MB; (ii) handset-based, postpaid, 500 MB; (iii) computer-based, prepaid, 1 GB; (iv) computer-based, postpaid, 1 GB. In countries with less than 2% of prepaid mobile-broadband subscriptions, only postpaid prices will be considered.
8. EGTI agreed on a common proposal for the revision of the Core Indicators on ICT infrastructure and access. EGTI proposed to: update the definitions to match those of the ITU Handbook; delete the indicators “Fixed Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants” and “Percentage of localities with public Internet access centres (PIACs)”; and add two indicators: “Mobile broadband Internet prices” and “TV broadcasting subscriptions per 100 inhabitants”.
9. In view of the methodological difficulties of collecting harmonized data on International Internet bandwidth, EGTI decided to continue the discussion on the topic in the EGTI online forum until March 2014 with the objective of reaching an agreement by that deadline. EGTI members were encouraged to check with the experts on the subject in their countries and to report back to the EGTI online forum on which definition would be more useful and feasible to adopt: (i) potential capacity; (ii) lit or equipped capacity; (iii) purchased capacity; or (iv) used capacity.
10. EGTI agreed to replace the current indicators on TV broadcasting with the following ones: (i) “IPTV subscriptions”; (ii) “Cable TV subscriptions”; (iii) “Satellite TV subscriptions”; (iv) “Other TV subscriptions” (MMDS, pay DTT, etc.). These indicators will start to be collected in the 2014 ITU Questionnaires.
11. The meeting concluded that currently it was not feasible to include in the ICT Development Index (IDI) new indicators on ICT usage in schools or fixed (wired)-broadband by speed, but that the subject would be discussed again once more data became available. It was also agreed that ITU would review the IDI methodology for ‘mobile-cellular subscriptions’ and ‘international Internet bandwidth’, and that the discussion on the IDI would continue in the EGTI forum. New proposals regarding the IDI should address the following points: (i) how would they improve the measurement of ICT developments? (ii) How would they fit in the conceptual framework of the IDI? (iii) Would data be available for the suggested new indicators and, if so, from which source?
12. EGTI agreed on proposing the following topics for discussion in 2014: a review of the classification of wireless-broadband subscriptions; a revision of the list of indicators included in the ITU Long Questionnaire; indicators on bundled telecommunication services; whether to separate subscription data on (a) individuals and (b) public and private organizations; and indicators on emerging technologies in telecommunication infrastructure (LTE and M2M).